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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/829,597	04/09/2001	John C. Tang	0007056-0031/P5063/RSH	7956
32291	7590	05/19/2006	EXAMINER	
MARTINE PENILLA & GENCARELLA, LLP 710 LAKEWAY DRIVE SUITE 200 SUNNYVALE, CA 94085			STEELMAN, MARY J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2191	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/829,597

**Applicant(s)**

TANG ET AL.

**Examiner**

Mary J. Steelman

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 49,50 and 52-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 49,50 and 52-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is in response to Claims, Amendments, and Remarks received 20 March 2006. Per Applicant's request, claim 51 is cancelled. Claims 49, 50, 52 -66 are amended. Claims 49, 50, and 52-66 are pending.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

2. In view of the amendments to claims 49-59, the prior 35 U.S.C. 101 rejections are hereby withdrawn.

#### ***Claim Objections***

3. Claims 61-66 recite "as recited in claim 53...", should be – as recited in claim 60...--.  
Change 53 to 60.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant has argued, in substance, the following:

(A) As noted on page 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, of Remarks, "Flinn is silent about GUI embodiments that provide users with interactivity with different parts of a GUI.

Examiner's Response: Examiner disagrees. Flinn disclosed user interactivity with different parts of a GUI. As an example (col. 9, line 48), "a mouse click (user interactivity) on one of the co-expressed objects 44 causes an object summary 46 (a different part of a GUI) for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed."

(B) As noted on page 8, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, Applicant has amended claims to recite "program object", so as to better show the program object enables interactivity to a user, different than the

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functionality provided by Flinn. Flinn provides interactivity to allow relationships to be formed between different objects.

Examiner's Response: Examiner disagrees. As an example ( col. 7, line 62), "user creates new content objects 34c or edits existing content objects 34c, as desired (block 222). Using the display interface 14, a user may enter of edit meta-information 36 for the content object 34c..." Flinn disclosed content objects (program object), with which the GUI interface enables user interactivity.

(C) As noted on page 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, amended claim 49 is further defined to include an "accessible link to either the users or the program objects presented as an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of the type for the accessible link..."

Examiner's Response: See rejection of claim 49 below. New art has been added.

(D) As noted on page 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, Flinn does not define relationships in a GUI that enables accessible links to the users and program objects that are most related to the currently active programmed object.

Examiner's Response: Examiner disagrees. As an example regarding the 'most related', see col. 11, lines 49-61. A line of varying thickness, or a color variance, may depict the degree of relatedness.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 49, 50, and 52-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 6,795,826 B2 to Flinn et al., in view of USPN 6,014,135 to Fernandes.

Per claim 49:

A graphical display interface portal, tangibly embodied on a computer readable media, the graphical display interface portal providing a user interface for interactivity, comprising:

Flinn: Fig. 9 and col. 9, line 13, 'display interface 14' (graphical display interface portal)

Flinn disclosed user interactivity with different parts of a GUI. As an example (col. 9, line 48),

"a mouse click (user interactivity) on one of the co-expressed objects 44 causes an object

summary 46 (a different part of a GUI) for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed."

-a document display area of a user interface display screen, the document display area defining a currently active program object that enables program interaction by a user;

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Flinn: Col. 9, lines 19-20, “a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface 14 to represent a **selected object 34** (active program object).” (emphasis added) See FIG. 10, #46c, (document display area of user interface)

-a neighborhood panel presented on the user interface display screen along side with the document display area, such that the neighborhood panel is concurrently illustrated when the currently active program object for the user is present, the neighborhood panel including a list of one or more users and a list of one or more program objects,

Flinn: See Fig. 9. A display interface for a selected object presents objects related (44a) to the selected object (46a). Related objects are presented in the display area. Col. 9, lines 13-32, “The **display interface 14** may express one or more objects 34...a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface 14 to **represent a selected object 34**...The first object summary 46a further provides a **list of related objects 44a** (neighborhood panel including a list of one or more users and a list of one or more program objects). The list of related objects 44a include one or more objects 34 that are deemed **related to the selected object 34**. The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...This facilitates access to the object 34 represented by the first object summary 46a, by supplying...a connection to related objects 44a.” (emphasis added) Col. 8, lines 16-35, “a client experience manager 28 tracks usage...using a transaction log 18...Individual user access to content or topic objects 34, the number of users accessing an object 34, and other indications of usage may be tracked...This enables users and administrators to view the content network 40 **usage at the level of the individual topic objects**

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**34t and content objects 34c.** The usage patterns may also be processed so as to provide relationships among the objects in a content network 40 based on usage, either at the level of individual user, or groups of users...the information supplied by the client experience manager 28 is provided by the display interface 14...” (emphasis added)

-the list of one or more users being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each user in the list of one or more users being selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the user and the currently active program object, the relationship being defined by a metric;

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 16-35 (see above) & col. 11, lines 30-35, “For example, suppose the system 100 includes a **class of content objects 34c designated ‘people’ (user object).** A user may display any or all of the individual ‘people content objects 34c...user may display the ‘people’ content objects 34c for a selected topic object 34t.” (emphasis added) Col. 13, lines 49-53, “the system 100 may automatically establish relationships between objects 34 of the content network 40. For example, relationship indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted using statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques (relationships defined by a metric).” Col. 9, lines 8-12, “the display interface 14 accesses data structures that store the...content objects 34 requested...The portion of the content network 40 that is accessed may be organized by the display interface to be visually effective (select for display based on a relationship). Col. 9, lines 27-28, “related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...(related objects are displayed in neighborhood panel)”

-the list of one or more program objects being automatically displayed in the neighborhood panel, each program object in the list of one or more program objects being selected for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship between the program object and the currently active program object, the relationship being defined by a metric;

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 13-18, “display interface 14 (automatically displayed) may express one or more objects 34...The object summaries (co-expressed in neighborhood panel) describe either topic objects 34t or content objects 34c.” (list of program objects displayed in neighborhood panel as ‘related, co-expressed objects’) Col. 8, lines 8-14, “Content objects 34c are encapsulations that contain meta-information 36c and relationships to other objects 34...content objects 34c may include either an embedded pointer to information or the information 38c itself...may include files, text, documents (program objects)...” Col. 13, lines 49-53, “the system 100 may automatically establish relationships between objects 34 of the content network 40. For example, relationship indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted using statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques (relationships defined by a metric).”

-wherein automatically displaying the list of one or more users and the list of one or more program objects in neighborhood panel provides a viewable interrelationship and an accessible link to the users and program objects that are most related to the currently active program object, as defined by the metric for the users and the metric for the program objects.



Flinn: Col. 10, lines 30-34, "Relevancy control 54...control the degree to which related objects 44 are co-expressed in the ...display interface 14 (related objects, program objects and user objects displayed) . In one embodiment, the relevancy control 54 is a GUI window, such as depicted in FIG. 12. As an example regarding the 'most related', see col. 11, lines 49-61. A line of varying thickness, or a color variance, may depict the degree of relatedness. Interrelationship is shown in the display of related objects. Col. 9, lines 48-50, "a mouse click (accessible link to the user objects and program objects) on one of the co-expresses objects 44 causes an object summary 46 for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed."

Flinn failed to specifically disclose:

-and wherein the accessible link to either the users or the program objects is presented as an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link.

However, Fernandes disclosed a (Title) collaboration centric document processing environment using an information centric visual user interface and information presentation method. See FIG. 3, which shows icons providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link. As an example, a word document type has a distinctive icon, and a user type has another distinctive type. See related text at col. 10, line 6-47. Col. 10, line 10, "The display 50 has a plurality of first icons 40 (A-C). Each of the first plurality of icons is a graphical representation of an individual (accessible link to user)..." Col. 10, line 29, "The display 50 also has a plurality of second icons 42 (A-B). Each of the plurality of second icons 42 (graphical indicator of a type for

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the accessible link) is a graphical representation of information. The information can be of any type. They can include but are not limited to: spread sheet files, text files, images, sound, reference to URL sites...(program objects).

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Flinn, to include the teachings of Fernandes, which disclose icons providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link, because Fernandes recognized (col. 3, line 41) the need for a VUI (visual user interface) that allows the user to “visualize the process needed to control the system to achieve his goals.” Likewise, Flinn felt the need for (col. 1, line 61) “an intelligent, adaptive method of organizing and retrieving information.”

Per claim 50:

-the neighborhood panel further identifies a history list, the history list defining users and program objects that the user of the currently active program object has accessed or communicated with,

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 16-22, “a client experience manager 28 tracks usage...using a transaction log (history list) 18. User interaction with the content network 40...is stored in the transaction log 18.” Col. 8, lines 23-32, “Individual user access to content...objects 34, the number of users accessing an object 34, and other indications of usage may be tracked (defining users and program objects that user has accessed)...enables...to view the content network 40 usage at the

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level of the individual...content objects 34c...based on usage, either at the level of individual user, or groups of users.”

-the history list being automatically updated and displayed on the user interface display screen.

Flinn: See Fig. 4. Col. 8, lines 62-67, “the user layer 10 provides the display interface 14 to facilitate access to the content network 40 by users of the system 100...display interface 14 is a graphical user interface (GUI) that...provides a representation of the content network 40 (content network usage displayed on user interface display screen).” Col. 7, lines 59-60, “content objects 34c may be generated or updated automatically...”

Per claim 52:

-the currently active program object is one of a word processing document, an email message, a telephone conversation, or a web page.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 13-20, “files, text, documents (word processing document), articles, images, audio (telephone conversation), video, multi-media, or signals...Where the content object 34c supplies a pointer to information, the pointer may be a memory address...may be a Uniform Resource Locator (web page)...”

Per claim 53:

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-the metric for the users is determined by a number of times the users accessed the currently active program object in the past.

Flinn: Col. 8, line 31, “based on usage (metric, number of times user accessed the currently active program object)...at the level of individual user or groups of users. (number of times the users accessed the currently active program object)”

Per claim 54:

-the metric for the program object is determined by an amount of common content between the currently active program object and the program object.

Flinn: Col. 12, lines 29-45, Relevancy may be adjusted to indicate “most highly related objects are co-expressed (displayed in GUI). Col. 12, lines 53-55, “relationship indicators 42 (metrics for program object) may be established using pattern matching techniques, such as where two objects 34 have similar information 38 (an amount of common content)...”

Per claim 55:

-the metric for the program object is determined by a frequency with which the program object is accessed by one or more users.

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Flinn: Col. 8, line 31, “based on usage (metric, number of times user accessed the currently active program object)...at the level of individual user (frequency program object is accessed by user) or groups of users.”

Per claim 56:

-the metric for the program object is determined by whether the program object is a copy of the currently active program object.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 50-65, “Each object 34 may be related to any other object 34, and may be related by a relationship and associated relationship indicator 42...by a degree manifested by the relationship indicators 42...a numerical indication of the relationship between objects 34...1 indicates a subset relationship...relationship indicators 42 are expressed using subjective descriptors that depict the ‘quality’ of the relationship...subjective descriptors ‘high’ (program object is a copy)...may indicate a relationship between two objects 34.”

Regarding ‘the currently active program object’, Flinn disclosed (col. 9, lines 13-32), “the display interface 14...may express one or more objects 34...a first object summary is presented to the display interface to represent a selected object 34...The first object summary 46a further provides a list of related objects 44a...The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...This facilitates access to the object...” A currently active program object and related objects are presented on a display. A metric is determined regarding the relationship of related objects.

Per claim 57:

-the metric for the program object is determined by whether the currently active program object referenced the program object.

Flinn: Col. 13, lines 65-66, "The usage patterns (whether current active program object referenced the program object) may thus produce 'automatic relationship adjustment' between some objects 34 of the content network." Col. 14, lines 1-3, "if users typically always move from object A to object B, then the relationship between A and B would be high..."

Per claim 58:

-the metric for the user is determined by whether the user has accessed the program object.

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 30-31, "relationships among the objects in a content network 40 based on usage, either at the level of individual user (whether user has accessed the program object)..."

Per claim 59:

-the metric for the user is determined by whether the user was contacted.

Flinn: Col. 4, lines 8-9, "Content objects 34c are encapsulations that contain meta-information 36c and relationships to other objects 34." Col. 11, line 32, "people content objects 34c" Col. 13, lines 51-53, "relationship indicators 42 between objects 34 may automatically be adjusted

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suing statistical pattern matching, neural network technology, or other techniques.” Thus, metrics exist for a user (people content objects) and degree of contact with other content objects.

Per claim 60:

A computer implemented method of accessing a related item through a graphical user interface (GUI) that provides graphical access and interactivity, comprising:

Flinn: Flinn disclosed a (col. 2, line 61) ‘method’ for managing data. Col. 2, line 64, “objects in the content network are related by a degree...relationships between the objects may be established...” Flinn disclosed user interactivity with different parts of a GUI. As an example (col. 9, line 48), “a mouse click (user interactivity) on one of the co-expressed objects 44 causes an object summary 46 (a different part of a GUI) for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed.”

-displaying a currently active program object in a display area and allowing user interaction with aspects of the active program object;;

Flinn: Col. 8, lines 62-67, “RIG. 4, the user layer 10 provides the display interface 14 to facilitate access to the content network 40...the display interface 14 is a graphical user interface (GUI)...” Col. 9, lines 19-20, “a first object summary 46a is presented to the display interface (display area) 14 to represent a selected object 34 (currently active program object)...”

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-automatically generating a list of related users and program objects for the currently active program object based on a metric;

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 23-32, “The first object summary 46a further provides a list of related objects 44a (automatically generating a list of related users (people content objects) and program objects). The list of related objects 44a includes one or more objects 34 that are deemed related (based on a metric – see rejections related to metrics above) to the selected object 34 (currently active program object). The related objects 44a are coupled together, or co-expressed...”

-concurrently displaying the list of related users and program objects in a neighborhood panel, such that the neighborhood panel is displayed along with the currently active program object in the display area;

Flinn: As an example, see FIG. 10. Related users and program objects (44c) in a neighborhood panel (46c) are displayed along with the currently active program object (48c).

-enabling access to at least one of the related users or program objects through the neighborhood panel

Flinn: Col. 9, lines 48-50, “a mouse click (enabling access) on one of the co-expressed objects 44 (related users or program objects) causes an object summary 46 for the selected co-expressed object 44 to be displayed.” Related objects are linked on the GUI.



Flinn failed to explicitly disclose:

-wherein access to either the users or the program objects is enabled through an icon, the icon providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the access.

However, Fernandes disclosed a (Title) collaboration centric document processing environment using an information centric visual user interface and information presentation method. See FIG. 3, which shows icons providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link. As an example, a word document type has a distinctive icon, and a user type has another distinctive type. See related text at col. 10, line 6-47. Col. 10, line 10, “The display 50 has a plurality of first icons 40 (A-C). Each of the first plurality of icons is a graphical representation of an individual (accessible link to user)...” Col. 10, line 29, “The display 50 also has a plurality of second icons 42 (A-B). Each of the plurality of second icons 42 (graphical indicator of a type for the accessible link) is a graphical representation of information. The information can be of any type. They can include but are not limited to: spread sheet files, text files, images, sound, reference to URL sites...(program objects).

Therefore, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify Flinn, to include the teachings of Fernandes, which disclose icons providing a graphical or text indicator of a type for the accessible link, because Fernandes recognized (col. 3, line 41) the need for a VUI (visual user interface) that allows the user to “visualize the process

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needed to control the system to achieve his goals.” Likewise, Flinn felt the need for (col. 1, line 61) “an intelligent, adaptive method of organizing and retrieving information.”

Per claim 61:

-the neighborhood panel further identifies a history list, the history list defining users and program objects that the user of the currently active program object has accessed or communicated with,

-the history list being automatically updated and displayed in the display area.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 50 above.

Per claim 62:

-the currently active program object is one of a word processing document, an email message, a telephone conversation, or a web page.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 52 above.

Per claim 63:

-selecting one or more users for display in the neighborhood panel based on a relationship, between the user and the currently active program object, defined by the metric.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 49 above.

Per claim 64:

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-determining the metric for the users by the number of times the users accessed the currently active program object in the past.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 53 above.

Per claim 65:

-determining the metric for the program object by a frequency with which the program object is accessed by one or more users.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 55 above.

Per claim 66:

-determining the metric for the program object by an amount of common content between the currently active program object and the program object.

See rejection of limitations addressed in claim 54 above.

### ***Conclusion***

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

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the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Steelman, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3704. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday, from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wei Zhen can be reached at (571) 272-3708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist: 571-272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mary Steelman



05/08/2006